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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CORREA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 12, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LUIS J. CORREA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the British statesman, Sir Winston Churchill, is credited with having stated that those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it. This is the reason why, in part, I will be introducing legislation for a slavery remembrance day. Currently, no such day exists in the United States.

National days of remembrance provide an effective means to honor those

impacted by horrific events. They prevent the tragedy from fading from our memories by educating the generations to come, and they highlight the modern-day implications of such events.

My resolution would provide a day for slavery remembrance, and the language of the resolution would commemorate the lives of all enslaved people, while condemning the act and the perpetration as well as perpetuation of slavery in the United States of America and across the world.

The resolution would discuss the Middle Passage, the Underground Railroad, and the lives of Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman, and John Brown. It would also make the 18 persons who were elected to Congress from the Reconstruction era as honorary cosponsors of the resolution in a posthumous way.

I am proud to do this, and I ask that all Members please consider becoming original cosponsors of the resolution.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, equal justice under the law is a cornerstone of our American democracy. At home in Pennsylvania and around our country, our communities are blessed with dedicated law enforcement officers who work daily to protect and to serve. During National Police Week, the American people honor and thank the law enforcement officers who keep us safe each and every day.

While no organization is perfect, our local police work hard to uphold the law and maintain peace in our communities. As Chambersburg Police Chief Ron Camacho told me just this week, good police forces are centered on protecting and learning how to protect better. He said that good police forces are constantly evolving and improving.

I wholeheartedly agree with my friend, the chief of police in Chambersburg, and Congress must do our part to support these heroes. Instead of talking about defunding the police, we should be working to better train and equip law enforcement officers to do the job that we have entrusted them to do.

As we move forward, the American people know that Republicans are leading commonsense, bipartisan solutions. For over a year, Senator TIM SCOTT and Congressman PETE STAUBER have led our efforts to improve transparency, accountability, and training. Rather than defund or dismantle the police, the Justice Act will enact bipartisan reforms to better equip these brave Americans who serve our communities. I was proud to cosponsor that legislation, and I encourage my colleagues on all sides of the political spectrum to join us in this commonsense approach.

Democrats say that they want to work together on police reform. Now is the chance. Getting this right today is critical for the future of policing in our Nation. We cannot allow the radical left to erode trust in the justice system and degrade the good name of the public servants for the sake of their own woke agenda. Right now, our law enforcement community is facing unprecedented attacks. Every day, the left threatens to abandon these heroes who protect us.

Chief Camacho leads an exemplary police force in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. He and the vast majority of the law enforcement community go above and beyond to protect our communities.

As a nation, we must never turn our backs on the police. We must never defund the police. During National Police Week and throughout this year, it is my privilege to stand with the thin blue line, and I will always back the blue.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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